



Fig. 1. Fruit of *Chionanthus ramiflorus*. 1. Fruit (Nair 3534 PBL) of peculiar size, 2. Fruit (Chakraborty 3801 PBL) of

I have also not come across such peculiarity in the fruits of *C. ramiflorus* Roxb. during the course of my revisionary study of Indian Oleaceae.

However, the comparison of the total characters of *C. ramiflorus* shows that our specimen is otherwise normal except in drupe size and texture. It is noticed that usually teratological forms develop due to fungus or insect attacks. Teratology plays an important role in the phylogenetic interpretations as stated in PRINCIPLES OF PLANT TERATOLOGY (Worsdell, W.C. 1915). *C. ramiflorus* with such large fruit and prominent ridges could easily misguide the explorer. To facilitate easy identification of the species in the field, fruits have been illustrated in Fig.1.

Hence, it is clear that this gigantism in fruits of *C. ramiflorus* is not hereditarily fixed, but further observation of this type of gigantism in plant parts may give clues to their phylogeny.

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35. NEW RECORD OF SCHEFFLERA J.R. & G. FORST (ARALIACEAE) FROM INDIA (With a text-figure)

During the course of plant collection in the forest areas in Great Nicobar Islands, I collected plant specimens identified as *Schefflera* of Araliaceae, from the 38 km East-West Road of Campbell Bay. On critical examination at Central National Herbarium it was found that the species compares well with one Javanese specimen designated as *Heptapleurum longifolia* Seem.

Frodin (1975) and Philipson (1979) treated the genus *Heptapleurum* Gaertn. under *Schefflera* J.R. & G. Forst. *Schefflera* J.R. & G. Forst *nom. cons.* (= *Heptapleurum* Gaertn.) is represented by 200 species in the world. In India it is represented by c. 15 species (Santapau and Henry 1973).

Hooker (1879) recorded 15 species of *Heptapleurum* Gaertn. Of these, 9 are reported from various parts of India, mainly north-west Himalaya, Khasi hills and Nilgiris. They also occur in Bhutan, Burma, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Two species, viz. *Schefflera elliptica* (Bl.) Harms and *S. venulosa* (W. & A.) Harms are known to occur in the Andaman and Nicobar islands (Vasudeva Rao 1986).

Critical study of the specimen and literature reveals that the present collection is *Schefflera longifolia* (Bl.) Vig. – a Javanese species hitherto not recorded from India. Therefore, it is reported here with nomenclatural citation, detailed description and illustrations.

Schefflera longifolia (Bl.) Viguier in Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 9, 9: 356. 1909. *Sciadophyllum longifolium* Bl. Bijdr. 876. 1826. *Heptapleurum longifolium* Seem. in Jour. Bot. 3: 79. 1865. (Fig. 1).

An evergreen tree, c. 8-10 m tall, younger parts covered with a fluccose scurfy or tawny tomentum. Leaves digitately 5-7 foliolate; petioles 80 cm long, nearly glabrous, smooth, very finely ribbed, base spathaceous with numerous warted growths; leaflets 28-35 x 8-13 cm, ovate, oblong to oblong-ovate, coriaceous, glaucous beneath, broadly serrate on margin, acuminate, rounded or obtuse at base; petiolules 5.5-6.5 cm long with spatulate base; lateral nerves 15-18 pairs, prominently raised beneath.

Inflorescence terminal, umbel shorter than leaf.



Fig. 1. *Schefflera longifolia* (Bl.) Vig.

1. Habit (a twig), 2. Inflorescence, 3. Bracts, 4. Umbel, 5. Flower, 6. Flower showing attachment of stamens, 7. Stamen.

